



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 131

LCO No. 1237



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC BOOK LICENSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section,
2 (1) "electronic book" means a text document converted into or published
3 in a digital format that is read on a computer or portable electronic
4 device, (2) "publisher" means any person in the business of the
5 manufacture, promulgation or sale of books, journals or other literary
6 productions, including those in digital form, consisting of text, imagery
7 or both, (3) "portable electronic device" means any self-contained
8 electronic device for personal use for communicating, reading, viewing,
9 listening, playing video games, or computing, including a mobile
10 telephone, tablet computer, electronic book reader, and other similar
11 devices, and (4) "reasonable terms" means purchase or licensing
12 specifications that consider publishers' business models as well as
13 libraries' efficient use of funds in providing library services.

14 (b) Any publisher who offers any contract or product license for the
15 acquisition or use of any electronic book to the public shall, upon the
16 request of any library in this state, offer such contract or product license

17 to the requesting library on reasonable terms that would permit the
18 requesting library to provide its library users with access to such
19 electronic book.

20 (c) Any contract or license agreement between any publisher and any
21 library entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may
22 require (1) a limitation on the number of users a library may allow
23 simultaneous access to an electronic book, (2) a limitation on the number
24 of days a library may allow a user to access an electronic book, and (3)
25 the library's use of technological protection measures that prevent a user
26 from (A) maintaining access to an electronic book beyond the access
27 period specified in the license, and (B) providing other users with access
28 to an electronic book.

29 (d) Any contract or license agreement between any publisher and any
30 library entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not
31 include a limitation on the number of electronic book licenses a library
32 may purchase on the same date such electronic book is made available
33 for purchase by the public.

34 (e) Any publisher that violates the provisions of this section shall
35 have committed an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of section
36 42-110b of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require publishers of electronic books to license such books to public libraries on reasonable terms.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]